

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Cottbus Airfield

25X1A

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EVALUATION

25X1X

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT

25X1C

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 5 July 1951

REFERENCES

PAGES 2

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

SOURCE

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1. On 30 May 1951, about 25 conventional aircraft with two engines were parked in three groups in front of the hangars at Cottbus airfield. * There was no flying between 2:30 and 7 p.m. when the cloud base was low. A new road north of the recently graded area was used as an approach road to the field. A convoy of ten trucks, each occupied by two or three air force soldiers, was seen on this road. The trucks had an inscription in Russian letters, probably reading "Driving school".

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2. On 2 June, the following information was obtained from an electrician who was employed by the Cottbus National Electric Company on Karl-Liebknecht-Strasse. An unusually large quantity of ammunition was stored at Cottbus airfield. The Soviets placed an order with the electric company for the installation of lightning conductors for the ammunition dumps, probably because there have been many thunderstorms recently. The company was further ordered to lay electric wires to the enlarged barracks installations at Cottbus and Melzow airfields. **

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3. Between 2 and 6 p.m. on 6 June, 27 twin-engine aircraft were counted in front of the hangars at the field. There was flying by only three biplanes although the weather was good. Each plane towed a sleeve target. Two machine guns located west of the hangars fired at the sleeve targets at an altitude of about 100 to 120 meters.

4. The graded area in the eastern extension of the runway was rolled and enclosed by a board fence. Construction was still in progress in the western extension of the runway. Cement pipes about 1 meter in diameter and 2 meters long were being laid in a trench.

5. On 12 and 14 June, 34 twin-engine Pe-2s were parked in front of the hangars at the field. No jet aircraft were seen. Many laborers were excavating west of the runway. The following information was obtained from a foreman: for about 14 days, work has been done on 600 meters of the southwestern extension of the runway. *** In the course of this excavating the laborers struck a sewer line from Stroebitz (N 52/A 57). Together with grading work the sewage was now being regulated. Cement pipes about 1 meter in diameter were being laid under the new expansion strip of the runway, toward Zahsow (N 52/A 57).

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Work was stopped temporarily because water broke through at a completed section of the trench and pumps were not available. The KWU Bauhof, Cottbus, had the contract for the work. A work force of 150 laborers, including those engaged for drainage work, worked one 8-hour shift. The traffic between the airfield and the town had to be rerouted via a new road because of the construction work on the eastern extension of the runway beyond the Cottbus-Burg road.

25X1A* ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Comment. The airfield is occupied by a bomber regiment equipped with about 35 PE-2s.

25X1A *** ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Comment. Other sources confirm improvement work at Wetzow airfield where a hard surface runway is being built.

25X1A *** ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Comment. Construction on the western extension of the runway has not been started but grading is being done there.

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